

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. An expandable tubular stent comprising:
2 an expandable tubular body having a first end, a second end, a plurality of
3 interconnected cylindrical wall sections including a first cylindrical wall section at the
4 first end of the tubular body, a second cylindrical wall section at the second end of the
5 tubular body, and at least one intermediate cylindrical wall section between the first and
6 second cylindrical wall sections, and

7 a plurality of S-shaped connectors which extend between and are secured
8 to a cylindrical wall section and a longitudinally adjacent cylindrical wall section and
9 configured to provide both expansion and contraction between adjacent cylindrical wall
10 sections.

1 2. The expandable tubular stent of claim 1, wherein the S-shaped
2 connectors comprise a double curvature shape.

1 3. The expandable tubular stent of claim 1, wherein the connecting
2 members are secured to proximate points of adjacent cylindrical wall sections.

1 4. The expandable tubular stent of claim 2, wherein the connecting
2 members are secured to proximate points of adjacent cylindrical wall sections.

1 5. The expandable tubular stent of any of claims 1 to 4, wherein the
2 S-shaped connectors, connect at least some of the longitudinally adjacent cylindrical wall
3 sections extending along an intermediate section of the stent which is disposed between
4 ends of the stent.

1 6. An expandable tubular stent comprising:
2 an expandable tubular body having a first end, a second end, a plurality of
3 interconnected cylindrical wall sections including a first cylindrical wall section at the
4 first end of the tubular body, a second cylindrical wall section at the second end of the
5 tubular body, and at least one intermediate cylindrical wall section between the first and
6 second cylindrical wall sections, having an unexpanded and expanded configuration; and
7 a plurality of S-shaped connectors which extend between and are secured
8 to a cylindrical wall section and a longitudinally adjacent cylindrical wall section and
9 configured to provide a flexibility in both the expanded and unexpanded configurations.

1 7. An expandable tubular stent comprising:
2 an expandable tubular body having a first end, a second end, a plurality of
3 interconnected cylindrical wall segments including a first cylindrical wall segment at the
4 first end of the tubular body, a second cylindrical wall segment at the second end of the
5 tubular body, and at least one intermediate cylindrical wall segment between the first and
6 second cylindrical wall segments, and at least one extendable connector which has a first
7 end secured to a cylindrical wall segment at a first location and a second end secured to a
8 longitudinally adjacent cylindrical wall segment at a second location circumferentially off
9 set from the first location.

1 8. The expandable tubular stent of claim 7, wherein the at least one
2 extendable connector has an S-shape.

1 9. The expandable tubular stent of claim 7, wherein the at least one
2 extendable connector has a double curvature.

1 10. The expandable tubular stent of claim 7, wherein the at least one
2 extendable connector is configured to provide both expansion and contraction between
3 adjacent cylindrical wall segments.

1 11. The expandable tubular stent of claim 7, wherein a plurality of
2 cylindrical wall segments have at least one extendable connector which has a first end
3 secured to a cylindrical wall segment at a first location and a second end secured to a
4 longitudinally adjacent cylindrical wall segment at a second location circumferentially off
5 set from the first location.